

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

DECEMBER 1 CROP PROSPECTS

COTTON & SUGARCANE PRODUCTION

FARM MARKETINGS OF COTTON & SOYBEANS

U. S. CROP PROSPECTS

UPLAND COTTON harvested acreage, at 13.4 million acres, is up 25 percent from last year, but unchanged from the November estimate. American-Pima harvested acreage, at 309,200 acres, is up 32 percent from 1998.

Harvest of the Texas cotton crop progressed near normal throughout November under generally dry, open conditions. However, the first hard freeze did not occur in the Plains until late November, so many producers sprayed to aid harvest. On November 28, seventy-seven percent of the cotton acreage in Texas was reported harvested. This compares to 78 percent for the 5-year average. Cotton stalk destruction closely followed harvest in many areas. Dry weather aided harvesting in New Mexico throughout November as progress advanced to near normal by mid-month. Cotton objective yield data indicate Texas' crop has the seventh lowest boll weights in the last 10 years.

The Delta States (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee) made good progress on harvest and were virtually complete by mid-November. While the dry conditions were instrumental in aiding a quick harvest, these conditions also led to some deterioration in the quality of the crop. Data from objective yield surveys show boll weights in Arkansas and Mississippi were the lowest in the last ten years, while Louisiana's weight was ranked as the ninth lowest out of the last ten years.

SUGARCANE production is forecast at a record high 36.6 million tons, 6 percent above the previous record of 34.7 million tons set last year. U.S. sugarcane growers intend to harvest a record high 99,200 acres for sugar and seed during the 1999 crop year, 5 percent more than last year's final harvested acres. The record high acreage is due to a 30,000 acre expansion in Louisiana and a 13,000 acre increase in Florida. Yield is forecast at 37.0 tons per acre, slightly above last year's yield of 36.6 tons. Louisiana's forecasted yield, at 34.0 tons per acre is a record high 4.3 tons above the previous record high set last year.

Harvest steadily progressed with few rain delays. In Florida, all mills were grinding cane and about one-fourth of the acreage was harvested by the end of November. Louisiana's harvest was 61 percent complete as of November 29, slightly ahead of the 60-percent average for that date. By the end of the month, harvest was nearly complete in Hawaii, but remained active in Texas.

SUGARCANE: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD AND PRODUCTION BY STATE AND UNITED STATES

State	Area Harvested	Yield	Production	
	1999	1999	1998	1999
		Tons	1,000 Tons	
Florida	460.0	36.6	17,925	16,843
Hawaii	35.0	84.0	2,798	2,941
Louisiana	465.0	34.0	12,920	15,810
Texas	31.2	33.5	1,064	1,045
United States	991.2	37.0	34,707	36,639

ALL COTTON PRODUCTION

STATE	Area Harvested		Yield		Production 1/	
	1998	Ind. 1999	Final 1998	Ind. 1999	1998	Ind. 1999
	1,000 Acres		Pounds		1,000 Bales 2/	
Alabama	475.0	560.0	559.0	540.0	553.0	630.0
Arizona	263.5	250.2	1,156.0	1,223.0	634.8	637.5
Arkansas	900.0	960.0	645.0	715.0	1,209.0	1,430.0
California	800.0	844.0	899.0	1,223.0	1,498.8	2,150.0
Florida 3/	80.0	88.0	489.0	524.0	81.5	96.0
Georgia	1,280.0	1,450.0	578.0	513.0	1,542.0	1,550.0
Kansas 3/	16.5	28.0	404.0	411.0	13.9	24.0
Louisiana	525.0	595.0	586.0	726.0	641.0	900.0
Mississippi	940.0	1,180.0	737.0	708.0	1,444.0	1,740.0
Missouri	357.0	375.0	471.0	582.0	350.0	465.0
New Mexico	67.6	74.0	642.0	704.0	90.4	108.5
North Carolina	705.0	810.0	699.0	462.0	1,026.0	780.0
Oklahoma	120.0	170.0	560.0	424.0	140.0	150.0
South Carolina	286.0	315.0	587.0	434.0	350.0	285.0
Tennessee	445.0	565.0	589.0	501.0	546.0	590.0
Texas	3,332.0	5,032.0	526.0	492.0	3,652.1	5,153.0
Virginia 3/	91.0	109.0	765.0	819.0	145.1	186.0
US, All	10,683.6	13,405.2	625.0	604.0	13,918.2	16,875.0

1/Production ginned and to be ginned. 2/480-pound net weight bales. 3/Estimates for current year carried forward from previous forecast.

**LOUISIANA FARM MARKETINGS
OF COTTON & SOYBEANS**

MONTH	COTTON 1998-99	SOYBEANS 1998-99
	Percent	
August 1998	2.2	---
September	4.1	23
October	10.9	39
November	21.0	11
December	13.4	6
January 1999	11.4	5
February	9.0	3
March	9.6	3
April	5.6	1
May	4.0	1
June	4.5	1
July	4.2	1
August 1999	---	6
Total 1/	100.0	100.0

--- Indicates no marketings for the month. 1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

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FARM MARKETINGS BY MONTHS, UNITED STATES MARKETING YEAR 1998-99

MONTH	SORGHUM	CORN	COTTON	SOYBEANS
	Percent			
August 1998	---	---	4.4	---
September	7.4	7.5	4.7	9.0
October	18.5	13.9	9.8	22.6
November	12.4	10.3	17.5	8.4
December	13.5	7.2	17.0	6.1
January 1999	10.5	12.7	15.2	10.2
February	7.2	7.6	8.8	6.3
March	7.4	9.0	6.8	8.2
April	2.3	4.8	4.2	4.9
May	3.3	4.3	3.3	4.4
June	4.3	5.8	4.7	5.9
July	7.8	7.4	3.6	6.4
August 1999	5.4	9.5		7.6
Year	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

--- Indicates no marketings for the month.

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